

13th October 2011



Dear Parents,

I would first of all like to thank our many parents who have recommended Ratcliffe College to their friends and colleagues, for we were inundated with 125 prospective families at last Saturday's **Open Morning**. The event was tremendously popular, and it was a privilege to welcome so many new people to Ratcliffe, despite the drizzle! A special thank you must go to Mrs Sam Pole, Mrs Siobhan Noble, Mrs Jenny Howling, Mrs Nicki Howard, Mr Keith Croysdale and Mr Rob Culpin of the Parents' Association for their invaluable contributions. Thank you, too, to your sons and daughters who were exemplary in their welcome to our guests. They remained in buoyant mood not least because of their excellent performances on the sports field against the perennially strong opposition provided by Mount St Mary's, the reports of which appear later in this E-Newsletter.

Last week I attended the week-long **HMC Conference** (Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference), up in beautiful St Andrew's. The theme of the Conference was 'Excellence, not Privilege', a message that strikes a deep chord with me. Ratcliffe College has a long and proud tradition of upholding excellence removed from the trappings of social status, as exemplified so appropriately by our girls and boys last weekend. A leading neuro-scientist delivered one particularly fine seminar on the theme of reliance, a quality that we as a school believe that we foster in all of our students, working closely in partnership with you. It was most interesting to hear that resilience, developed through intellectual exploration and discovery, and complemented by self-discovery through activities such as sport, music, drama, CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, is now regarded as the most important indicator to future success and happiness. It is this quality upon which we must continue to build.

On Monday it was a pleasure to meet 15 priests from across the Diocese of Nottingham, hosted here by Fr David Tobin. All of our guests commented on the appropriate self-confidence, humility and good manners of our students. Years 1 and 2 enjoyed their trip to Southwell Minster on Tuesday, while in the evening we welcomed 12 families to our Boarders' Open Evening. Wednesday saw the turn of our Swans enjoying a school trip to Pizza Express, Melton Mowbray, and in the evening there was a lively debate conducted by the Sixth Form Languages Society in our Sixth Form Centre, followed by delicious refreshments.

On Thursday morning, Year 3 performed a beautiful assembly on the theme of decision making, under the inspirational guidance of Miss Kearns and as I write this, I look forward to seeing our Year 13 parents at tonight's Parent/Teacher meeting which starts at 6.30pm in the Old Library. Thank you, Staff and parents of children in the Nursery and Junior Schools, for attending this past week's Parents' Evenings, too.

Studies Cards:

All Senior School parents, as well as Year 6 parents, have recently received (or are about to receive) Studies Cards, almost all of which testify to the good work of our children. School and home can work so effectively together if we jointly instil a positive work ethic, from which a love for learning will naturally stem. If I were to summarise the salient action points to underpin this – and do please share this with your children, even if they are not new to the School! – I would suggest that we as teachers and parents should be working together to help our children to:

- Remain attentive to the task in hand, whatever that may be – keep focussed;
- Note any homework requirements carefully;
- Never be afraid to ask for help, or to seek clarification;
- Get down to homework after a short break, to allow time for relaxation at the end;
- Pack the School bag correctly for the next day, with all the relevant equipment;
- Arrive in good time for School and lessons (wearing School Uniform correctly and with pride!) to avoid feeling pressurised;
- Get involved in extra-curricular activities, which are character-building and relaxing. Try something new – you can always stop if it is not for you.

New Extra-Curricular Club: Flight Club for Years 7 – 13

Mr Berry and Mr Cluley will offer students the opportunity to experience various aspects of flying, including Remote Controlled Helicopter and Aeroplane flying, but shall also be looking at the theory of flight through principles of flight, kites, aerial photography and opportunities in industry. As well as other aspects of the subject, they shall be looking at the history of flight; this will include documentaries and films as well as external speakers who will talk about their experiences.

As an aviation artist, Mr Berry has some interesting contacts, one of whom spent months spotting guerrilla camps in the jungles of Malaya, flying at tree-top level in the Auster, (the aircraft, incidentally, which is very closely linked to Ratcliffe!). Another flew the P-51 Mustang at air displays for years and was nearly shot down by Russian fighters during the Berlin Airlift. The club will be fun, but with all these possibilities, it will also link to the curriculum via history, careers, art and moving image.

Initially the club will run on Tuesday lunchtimes from 1.10pm – 1.55pm in the Upper Art Studio.

Half-Term Exchanges:

As we look forward to half-term, may we remember all those students in Years 10 – 13 who depart tomorrow on the German Exchange to Koblenz, as well as our Years 8 and 9 students who embark upon the 3-week exchange with our sister school, St Peter's, Gore, New Zealand. Mr and Mrs Taylor will be accompanying them; sadly, not to cheer on England but hopefully to raise their voices in support of Wales!

We shall celebrate our **Annual Community Carol Service at 6.00pm on Sunday 11th December**, in the Chapel, to which everyone is most welcome. *All students in Years 6, 7 and 8* will be performing, alongside children from invited local primary schools, so it should prove to be an excellent occasion. Also, please remember that for the first time this year, we shall have the **First Mass of Christmas on Christmas Eve**, starting at 6.00pm with Family Carols. The Mass is intended for everyone in the School community, regardless of faith background, and should prove to be a real celebration, followed by seasonal refreshments and a small gift to each child.

May I wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and blessed half-term.

Yours sincerely,

Gareth P. Lloyd,

Headmaster.

Parents' Association News



The poster features a green header with the Ratcliffe College crest and the text "Ratcliffe College Parents' Association". A speech bubble on the right says "Tickets available from Senior School Reception". Below the header are three images of the "The Thinker" statue in different colors: yellow, blue, and red. The main title "Quiz & Curry Night" is in large white letters on a purple background. At the bottom, it says "£10 a ticket, 12th November at 7.30pm prompt start".

**Tickets available from
Senior School Reception**

Ratcliffe College Parents' Association

Quiz & Curry Night

**£10 a ticket, 12th November at
7.30pm prompt start**

Senior School News

Congratulations to our Senior School students!

Headmaster's Assembly 10 October 2011 Awards

Certificate of Commendation (Excellence Slips) were awarded to:

Year 10 Georgia Chilton

Martha Lewis

India Walker

Year 11 Carter Chan

Joseph Dickinson

Jenny Fang

Roisin Sheehy

Year 12 Matthew Howard

Moyosolu Mosaku

Rishi Soni

Year 13 Turbo Cheung

Felicity Norris

Harriot Rockey

Junior School News

Congratulations to our Junior School pupils!

Amy Baxter, Year 6, received her 1st Certificate of Merit.

On Thursday 3rd November, we will hold the first of our RATs (**Ratcliffe's Artistically Talented Students**) concerts in the Music Hall, from 12.50 - 1.20pm. For those of you new to the School, each term children will be given the opportunity to perform short items of music, drama, recitation or even present a successful piece of artwork or photography to the audience.

Parents are warmly invited to provide an audience for the children. Please submit possible items for the concert to Mrs Markham before half term, to enable the programme to be drawn up. The aim is to give the children's budding creativity a platform - can't wait for the first concert of the year!

Mrs Markham, Junior Music Coordinator

Year 6 had an amazing time on their recent visit to '**The Warning Zone**' in Leicester, on 10th October. The children learnt all about personal safety and risks, and covered lots of aspects based around our Year 6 **PSHCE** units. Warning Zone is made up of 8 set-piece scenarios, in a purpose-built building and each scenario incorporates realistic settings, interactive equipment and special effects including: Building Sites/Electricity, Risks on the Road, Alcohol & Under-age Drinking, Personal Safety, Railways, Risk around Water, Criminal Damage & Arson and Fire Risk in the Home.

Matthew Wetton (Year 6B) and Charlotte Meadows (Year 6A) have recently each been awarded the role of Junior Road Safety Officer for the Junior School. This is a very important role as both Matthew and Charlotte will be teaching all of the children how to stay safe when they are 'out and about'.

Matthew and Charlotte both attended an information evening and collected lots of goodies and resources which will now be used to run competitions, run a road safety club and teach the other children in the Juniors how to stay safe!

Mrs Gilchrist and Miss Watson, Year 6.

PLEASE TURN OVER

Sport

Junior School

Cross Country Event at Brooke Priory, Saturday 8th October



Nineteen children accompanied Mrs Rigby to the annual cross country event at Shorne Hill in Rutland. Unfortunately, it was a rather drizzly afternoon, but that did not dampen the children's spirits. All of the children put in a sterling effort in their races and coped well with the slippery surface. We achieved some good results, with more than half of the children finishing in the top 20 in their race. A special mention must go to Annie Rose Reddin (Year 3) who won a medal for finishing 5th in her race. Well done to all of the children who took part, and thanks to all of the parents who came to support.

Mrs Rigby, Head of Junior School

Senior School

Boys' Rugby

The 1st XV were comprehensively beaten by over 50 points against a very strong and capable Mount St Mary's team. Man of the Match was James Montgomery Stuart for his valiant efforts. Jacob Coleman and Killian Kirkpatrick impressed with their defensive efforts.

The 2nd XV suffered their first defeat of the season, going down 12 - 5 in a closely contested match. The deadlock was broken by 2 quick Mount tries; however, a spirited second half comeback made for a very close finish. Ratcliffe were outstanding under the high ball, Tom Roalfe and Ernest Tso showing safe hands. Man of the Match, Ed Stiven, worked hard from start to finish, tackling and turning over ball throughout.

The U15s lost narrowly 29 – 17. A mixture of bad fortune and errors contributed to Ratcliffe's loss. The game was competitive all the way through and at times Ratcliffe dominated play. Try scorers were Cameron Gilchrist, Eddie Waller and John Cai. Man of the Match was Simon Riley with Dick Wong deserving a mention for another excellent performance.

The U14s suffered a narrow 6 – 0 defeat to a physical Mount St Mary's team. An excellent defensive display resulted in no tries being scored with only two penalties separating the teams. Ratcliffe should be proud of their efforts. Men of the Match were Toby Smith and Charlie Pickering for their breakdown defence.

The U13s have had a busy but very rewarding week. A 52 – 7 win against Stoneygate, with tries scored by Sam Kaul, Luke Gyesi-Appiah, Matthew Lewis, Finbarr Lloyd and Harry Reddin, and Man of the Match, Jacob Holford, was followed by a terrific 46 – 0 win against Mount St Mary's. Tries were scored by Sam Kaul, Luke Gyesi-Appiah, Matthew Lewis and Louis Hurst, and Men of the Match were Harry Bellamy and Matthew Lewis.

The U12s also had a busy week, with a game against Fairfield midweek and then a hard fought match against Mount St Mary's on Saturday, unfortunately losing both games. Tries against Mount St Mary's were scored by Ganesh Thapa and Micha Pinsent-Heskey. Man of the Match was Barnaby Carroll.

During this week, for the first time in nine years, the U12 rugby team beat Grace Dieu 22 – 0. The forwards, led by Men of the Match, Ben Dexter and Jamie Lanyon, dominated the game allowing the backs to run into space. Ganesh Thapa ran in two tries and Olutomi Mosaku showed his speed to run in an excellent try.

Eric Tuttey, Tom Stephens and Mir Patel represented Ratcliffe College in the Independent Schools' Gold Association Golf Match against Oakham. Although we lost all 3 matches, the boys acquitted themselves well. All 3 Oakham boys were Year 13 students and played off 3, 4 and 5 handicaps, so all in all it was a pretty tough match.

Simon Gray, Boys' Sports Captain

Girls' Hockey

The first XI hockey dominated a very scrappy game, winning 1 – 0. Despite enjoying the majority of possession, we struggled to convert this into goal scoring opportunities. Becky Pawley was nominated Player of the Match for scoring her first ever goal.

The 2nd XI really enjoyed their 8 – 0 victory at Mount St Mary's. They tried hard to employ the tactics worked on in training recently and showed great team spirit. Alice Gilbert, Emily Bruiners, Shona Traynor and Chloe Theobald all scored goals, with Moyo Mosaku and Libby Godfrey strong and energetic in defence. It is impossible to single out one Player of the Match as the whole team played very well.

The U15s secured a terrific 3 – 0 win, with an early goal from Evie Ayre setting them on their way. The second half was a complete domination, Ratcliffe scored a further 2 goals, but it could have quite easily been more after the amount of chances that were created. Goal scorers in the second half were Martha Lewis and Sarah Daniels. Player of the Match was India Walker.

The U14s played some great hockey and really put into practice the work they had done during training the week. They were leading 6 – 0 at half time after a pulsating first period. The second half continued in the same vein, but only 2 more goals could be added. The final score was a resounding 8 – 0 win, and Player of the Match was Elena Wheatley.

The U13s were disappointed after a 1 – 0 loss to Mount St Mary's. The game was intense throughout with Ratcliffe maintaining the majority of possession but unfortunately our girls couldn't finish off their good play. Continued effort from our side in the 2nd half wasn't enough to force the winner; a breakaway score from Mount St Mary's proved to be decisive. The whole squad played extremely well and deserved a better result. Player of the Match was Katherine Ralston.

The U12 A team had a convincing win against a strong Mount St Mary's team, winning 3 – 1. There was some excellent attacking play from Kate Tyszka and Olivia Back who scored all three goals between them. Player of the Match was Beatrice Waters who controlled the game from the back whilst making some excellent tackles.

The U12 B team also had a very successful trip to Mount St. Mary's last Saturday, captained by Lottie Warburton. They played a cohesive game and won 2 - 0 with both goals scored by Callista Tsatsa, who was also Player of the Match. Natasha Walsh and Anya Stokes deserve special mention for some excellent play.

During this week, the U13 and U12 A and B teams played against Stoneygate:

The U13 A Netball team lost 15 – 9 against a strong Stoneygate Team. Some good defensive play and excellent shooting kept Ratcliffe in the game. However, in the last quarter, Stoneygate pulled away and Ratcliffe couldn't capitalise on mistakes. Player of the Match was Katie Winston who kept the defence strong and worked the ball effectively down the court.

The U13 B team were excited for the fixture against a tough Stoneygate side. The girls started strong with a 4 – 1 lead after the first quarter due to the hard work of our shooters. At half-time,

Radcliffe increased its lead by 6 goals. Throughout the rest of the match, the girls began to tire but fought hard to maintain the win with a final score of 11 – 10. All players reacted well to the increased pressure from Stoneygate but the key to maintaining the win came from outstanding play and numerous, vital interceptions from Ellie Higton who earned herself Player of the Match.

The U12 A team enjoyed a resounding 24 – 6 victory against Stoneygate in their first school match of the year. The whole team worked tirelessly throughout the game and Olivia Back was outstanding as Goal Attack, earning Player of the Match for her shooting and defending.

The U12 B team got off to a slow start in their game against Stoneygate but after scoring their first goal, their confidence grew and they started moving off the ball well. They listened carefully to the advice they were given in the game and worked very hard. The game finished with a 6 – 2 win for Radcliffe; Player of the Match was Olivia Walklett.

Sibella Chew competed in Division 1 of the Leicester Winter League Swimming Team Competition at Loughborough last Saturday. She swam the U15 100 metres backstroke, U15 Individual Medley and freestyle relays and the 16 and over open freestyle relay. She won her individual events comfortably and played a key part in helping her relay teams to victory.

Well done to Emily Hollis who came 6th in the Intermediate Girls' race and Alice Daniel who finished 13th in the Junior Girls' race at the cross country event over the weekend.

Rebecca Pawley, Girls' Sports Captain

Spiritual News

Prayer of Trust

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing make you afraid.
All things are passing.
God alone never changes.
Patience gains all things.
If you have God you will want for nothing.
God alone suffices.

St Therese of Avila, 1515-1582
15th October Feast Day

St Therese is Patron Saint for headaches. She suffered much illness and also oppression within the Church, out of which grew great holiness and a great personality. One day, travelling between her communities, her carriage lost a wheel crossing a river. From the bank she prayed, "God if this is the way you treat your friends, it is no wonder you have so few!"

Fr President

Ratcliffe College v. Grace Dieu Pumpkin Growing Challenge 2011

CONGRATULATIONS!

A very well deserved trophy was awarded to Anna Williams, Class 6ST at Grace Dieu, as she presented her prize winning pumpkin which weighed in at 6 kilos.

She was even happy to share some tips; she had used a grow-bag, and given the pumpkin plenty of water!

Results were as follows:

Anna Williams (Year 6)	Grace Dieu	6 kilos
Tess Duffin (Year 5)	Ratcliffe College	4 kilos
Owen Lloyd (Year 4)	Ratcliffe College	2.75 kilos
Connor Fernandes (Year 5)	Ratcliffe College	2.25 kilos

Raising a few extra pounds for the CAFOD Family Fast envelopes, everyone taking part really enjoyed the challenge, and the Ratcliffe record of 22 kilos (Daisy's pumpkin in 2009) remains the target to beat for next year, anyone interested ...? YES WE ARE!



RUGBY COURSE at Ratcliffe College

3 Day Course - £90
4 Day Course - £115
Daily Rate - £35

Course Start - 9.30am - 4.30pm
Extended hours
8.30am - 5.30pm (extra charge)

4 Day Course For children 9 - 16 years

17th - 20th October 2011



Tuilagi Rugby Skills would like to offer you a unique opportunity to learn from an International Rugby Union and League Coach and ex Leicester Tigers and Samoa International star, Freddie Tuilagi.

An action packed exciting 4 days for young rugby players aged 9 - 16 years covering every aspect of rugby coaching, aimed to inspire children to lead a healthier lifestyle by becoming more active and to give young rugby players the chance to learn the skills and techniques to play the game and become future rugby stars.

TRS coaching team provide top professional age appropriate coaching in the following: Speed & Agility, ball handling, passing, kicking, rucking, mauling, scrums(age specific) lineouts, lines of

running, tackle & ball retention, game sense & tactics, strength & conditioning, video analysis.

- Coach appearances from the Tuilagi brothers and other Rugby super stars.
- All coaches are RFU qualified and CRB cleared.
- Groups based on ages, abilities, size and experience of attendees.

For further details please log on our website:
www.tuilagirugbyskills.com

COACHING YOUR KIDS THE FUTURE OF THE GAME